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TELEGRAM

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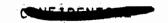
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SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS CAUSE GOT TO CANCEL BUS FARE INCREASES

- I. STUDENTS AND OTHER GROUPS IN TEHRAN DEMONSTRATED AND CLASHED WITH POLICE OVER THREE-DAY PERIOD FEB 21-23. IN PROTEST AGAINST INCREASED DUS COSTS RECENTLY REVISED BUS ROUTES HAD RAISED AND EVEN DOUBLED COSTS FOR MANY PASSENGERS AND HAD CREATED WIDESPREAD GRUMBLING AND DISSATISFACTION WHICH NOT LIMITED TO STUDENTS.
- 2. DEMONSTRATIONS STARTED AFTERNOON FEB 21 AT TEHRAN UNIVERSITY

WHEN 200-300 STUDENTS ASSEMBLED INSIDE CAMPUS SHOUTING PROTESTS AGAINST BUS COMPANY AND REPORTEDLY CALLING FOR BUS BOYCOTT NEXT DAY.

3. FEB =2 SAW SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS AT PRACTICALLY ALL UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN TEHRAN. SEVERAL INCIDENTS OF STUDENTS STONING BUSES OCCURRED PLUS SOME CLASHES OUTSIDE CAMPUSES IN WHICH STUDENTS STONED AND WERE FIRMLY SUPPRESSED BY RIOT POLICE WHO.
BY THIS TIME. OUT IN MODERATE FORCE IN UNIVERSITY AREAS.



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SOME STUDENTS INJURED AND SOME ARRESTED. IN AFTERNOON ALL

UNIVERSITIES CLOSED.

4. FEB 23. CLASHES WITH POLICE OCCURRED AGAIN AT TEHRAN UNIVERSITY AND OTHER SCHOOLS AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE IN CITY, AS STUDENTS TRIED ENTER CAMPUSES, STONED BUSES, OR ORGANIZED BOYCOTT OF BUSES. GROUPS REMAINED SMALL AND DISPERSED AND SEEMED TO BE SPONTANEOUS GATHERINGS, INVOLVING SOME HIGHSCHOOL STUDENTS AND NON-STUDENTS. WE KNOW OF AT LEAST SIX SEPARATE CLASHES WITH POLICE AND SAW EVIDENCE OF BROKEN GLASS FRON BUSES STONED.

5. AFTERNOON FED 23 GOI
BROADCAST AND PUBLISHED SHAH'S ORDER
THAT PM PERSONALLY INVESTIGATE BUS FARE PROBLEM. COMMITTEE
CHAIRED BY PM MET IMMEDIATELY AND BY EARLY EVENING HAD ORDERED
RETURN TO PREVIOUS BUS ROUTES AND FARES. BY MORNING FEB 24 BUS
COMPANY AND SITUATION IN CITY BACKSTO NORMAL. THOUGH TEHRAN AND
OTHER UNIVERSITIES REAMINED CLOSED AND WILL REPORTEDLY REMAIN SO
FOR SEVERAL DAYS TO ALLOW STUDENTS COOL OFF. ONCE DECISION MADE
CANCEL FARE RAISES TAKEN, PRESS SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY
WAS PERMITTED MENTION STUDENT PROTESTS AND STONING OF
BUSES, AND AP CORRESPONDENT ALLOWED FILE STORY OF EVENTS.

COMMENT: DEMONSTRATIONS, FIRST SINCE: MID-1968, GIVE
EVERY APPEARANCE OF SPONTANEOUS REACTION TO SPECIFIC
ISSUE OF BUS COSTS, MATTER OF IMPORTANCE TO ALL CLASSES.
PUBLIC: IRRITATION UNDOUBTEDLY ENHANCED BY NOT UNWARRANTED
IMAGE: OF BUS COMPANY AS CORRUPT AND INEFFICIENT. GOI'S
OWN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED RESPONSE PROBABLY DUE: TO RECOGNITION GENUINE GRIEVANCE EXISTED AND LACK OF CLEAR POLICY
ON ISSUE WITHIN GOI. SOME STUDENT FRUSTATION AT INABILITY
EXPRESS DISSENT ON OTHER ISSUES UNDOUBTEDLY FANNED THEIR
FEELINGS, THOUGH POLITICAL CONTENT OF DEMONSTRATIONS
(EXPRESSED IN OCCASIONAL ANTI-ISRAEL, IRAQ, US, AND GOI SIGNS
OR SHOUTS) WAS INSIGNIFICANT.



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FACT ALL THIS TOOK PLACE WHILE SHAH OUT OF COUNTRY AND THAT GOI DECISION TO REVERSE FIELD TAKEN AS RESULT SHAH'S INTER-VENTION PROBABLY MEANS SHAH HAS NOT ONLY ESCAPED BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE BUT ALSO ADDED MINOR LAURELS AS GUARDIAN OF POPULAR INTEREST. PM'S IMAGE SUFFICIENTLY STRONG SO THAT HIS POPULARITY WILL NOT SUFFER FROM THIS FRACAS. GP-3. MACARTHUR